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REMARKS

The Applicants and the undersigned thank Examiner Basom for the careful review of this application. Claims 1-14 have been rejected, while Claims 15-18 remain withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Upon entry of this amendment, Claims 1-18 remain pending in this application. The independent claims are Claims 1, 11 and 15. Consideration of the present application is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments to the application and in view of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,704,028 to Schanel et al (hereinafter the "Schanel reference") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,680,530 to Selfridge et al (hereinafter the "Selfridge reference"). The Applicants respectfully offer remarks to traverse these pending rejections.

Independent Claim 1

The rejection of Claim 1 is respectfully traversed. It is respectfully submitted that the Schanel and Selfridge references fail to describe, teach, or suggest (1) displaying one or more options in a first window for modifying one or more physical characteristics of nodes within a network diagram in a second window; (2) displaying one or more options in the first window for modifying one or more formatting characteristics of data that is contained within respective nodes within the network diagram; (3) displaying a graphical preview of one node containing text data with formatting characteristics in the first window that indicates current selected options for physical characteristics and data formatting characteristics of a group of nodes; (4) displaying an updated graphical preview of one node containing text data with selected formatting characteristics in the first window in response to receiving the selection of the one or more options; and (5) applying the selected options to one or more nodes in the network diagram which is contained within the second window, as recited in amended Claim 1.

The Schanel reference generally describes a graphics program that allows a user to create various types of diagrams such as flow charts, process flow charts, pareto charts, run charts,

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control charts, and cause-and-effect diagrams. In Figure 14 of the Schanel reference, a cause-and-effect diagram 330 is illustrated. See Figure 14 of the Schanel reference reproduced below.

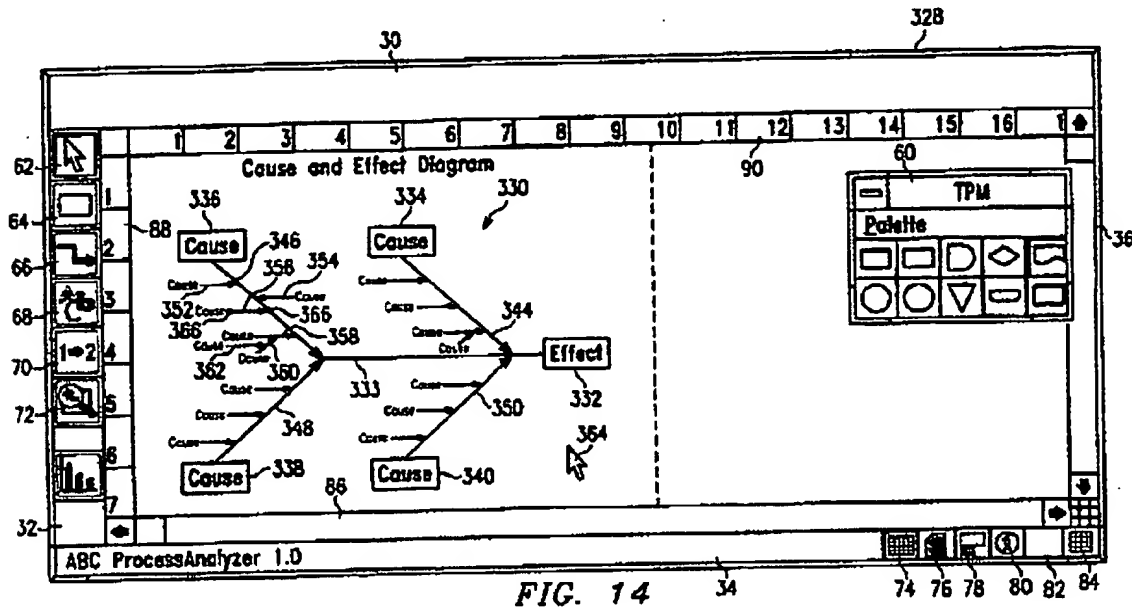
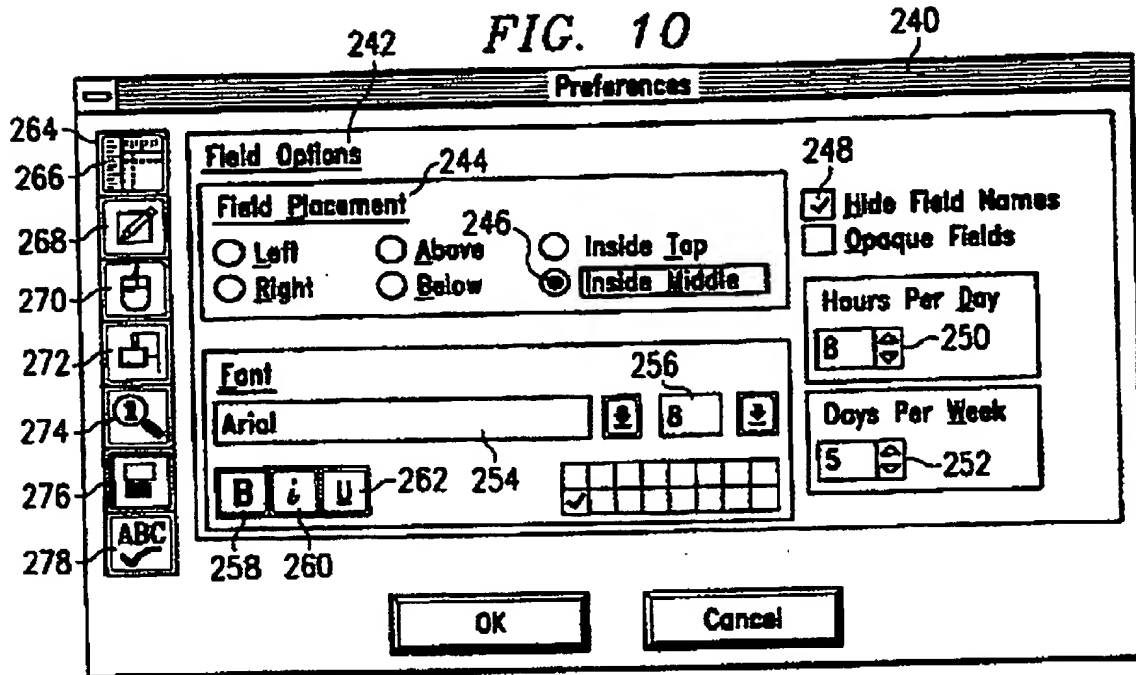


FIG. 14

In Figure 14 reproduced above, a user can use a mouse pointer 364 to select shapes from a shape pallet 60 and place shapes in the window 30. While it may be argued that shape pallet 60 can be interpreted as a first window, this first window does not display a graphical preview of one node that indicates current selected options for nodes that correspond with the first window and display an updated graphical preview of one node in the first window in response to receiving a selection of the one or more options displayed in the first window, as recited in amended independent Claim 1.

The Schanel reference also does not show a graphical preview of one node containing text data with formatting characteristics in the first window that indicates current selected options for physical characteristics and data formatting characteristics of a group of nodes, as recited in amended independent Claim 1. Instead, the Schanel reference only provides for data formatting characteristics in a separate window 240 as illustrated in Figure 10 reproduced below.

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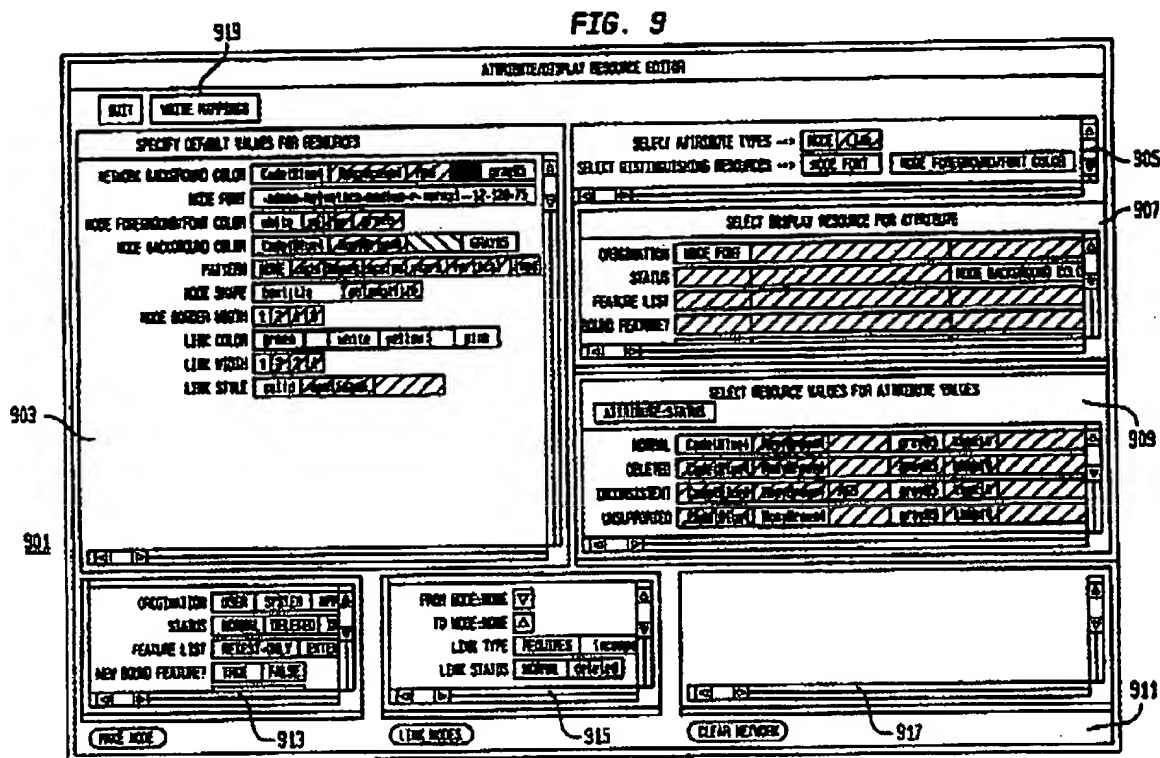


The Schanel reference does not provide a graphical preview that shows both physical characteristics and data formatting for a node.

The Examiner admits that the Schanel reference fails to provide any teaching of a preview. Those skilled in the art also recognize that to include a preview in the first window 60 of the Schanel reference would be not logical because this interface is used to build the diagram and not to display options for existing elements in the diagram.

In order to make up for the preview deficiency of the Schanel reference, the Examiner relies on Figure 9 the Selfridge reference and its corresponding written description to provide a teaching of a preview. Figure 9 of the Selfridge reference is reproduced as follows:

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Specifically, the Selfridge reference in column 18, lines 5-15, states the following about the "preview" section 911 of Figure 9:

"Section 903 uses the techniques just described to select default values for resources. The list on the left shows the available resources and the list to the right of each resource shows the available values for the resource. Section 911 permits the user to preview the results of his selections in areas 905, 907, 909, and 903. Section 913 of section 911 permits a user to specify values of attributes for a feature represented by a node; section 911 permits the user to specify values of attributes for links; again, the techniques of the other sections are used for selection. The results of the attribute selections is displayed in area 917."

In other words, while section 911 of the may be called a preview by the Selfridge reference, it is a preview of selected options displayed as only text or a text listing. The Selfridge reference does not teach any graphical previews of the nodes illustrating their physical characteristics and data formatting, as recited in amended Claim 1.

Meanwhile, opposite to the section of the Selfridge reference cited above, the Examiner interprets an isolated phrase of the Selfridge reference to mean that a graphical preview is taught

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by the Selfridge reference. Specifically, the Examiner relies on the passage found in column 17, lines 39-40 of the Selfridge reference:

“Section 911 permits a user to see what a node or link made using a particular set of mappings looks like.”

However, the Examiner has read this passage out of context. The description of section 911 is given above by the Applicants and it does not make any mention of a graphical preview that the Examiner is inferring from the passage above. The Applicants believe that the Examiner is inferring a graphical preview from this passage only because he is injecting what is taught by the Applicants' disclosure into this passage and not what is actually taught by the Selfridge reference.

Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art recognizes that the Selfridge reference does not display a graphical preview of one node that indicates current selected options for a group of nodes. The Selfridge reference also does not display an updated graphical preview of one node containing text data with selected formatting characteristics in the first window in response to receiving a selection of the one or more options displayed in the first window, as recited in amended independent Claim 1.

In light of the differences between the claims and the references mentioned above, one of ordinary skill in the art recognizes that the Schanel and Selfridge references, alone or in combination, cannot anticipate or render obvious the recitations as set forth in amended independent Claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 11

The rejection of Claim 11 is respectfully traversed. It is respectfully submitted that the Schanel and Selfridge references fail to describe, teach, or suggest (1) displaying an indicator that shows a highlight filter is activated; (2) listing one or more categories of nodes for a network diagram; (3) displaying one or more options for modifying one or more physical characteristics of a category of nodes within a network diagram; (4) displaying one or more options for modifying one or more formatting characteristics of data that is contained within a category of nodes within a network diagram; (5) displaying a highlight filter graphical preview comprising a node containing text data with formatting characteristics of current settings for nodes that

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illustrates the physical characteristics and data formatting characteristics of a category of nodes; (6) associating the selected options with a corresponding category of nodes; (7) displaying an updated highlight filter graphical preview comprising a node containing text data with selected formatting characteristics in response to receiving a selection of one or more of the options; and (8) applying the selected options to one or more nodes in a network diagram such that nodes of a category designated for highlighting relative to other nodes have the selected options of the highlight filter, as recited in amended Claim 11.

As noted and illustrated above, the Schanel or the Selfridge references do not provide any teaching of displaying a highlight filter graphical preview of current settings for nodes corresponding to the highlight filter and displaying an updated highlight filter graphical preview comprising a node containing text data with selected formatting characteristics in response to receiving a selection of one or more of the options. The Examiner admits that the Schanel reference does not provide any teaching of a preview.

While the Selfridge reference makes reference to a preview, it does not provide any teaching of a graphical preview of current settings for nodes that illustrate the physical characteristics and data formatting characteristics of a category of nodes, as recited in amended Claim 11. Instead, the Selfridge reference teaches a text based preview of selected options that do not comprise a highlight filter.

In light of the differences between the references and claims mentioned above, one of ordinary skill in the art recognizes that the Schanel and Selfridge references, alone or in combination, cannot anticipate or render obvious the recitations as set forth in amended independent Claim 11. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Dependent Claims 2-10, and 12-14

The Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified dependent claims are allowable because the independent claims from which they depend are patentable over the cited references. The Applicants also respectfully submit that the recitations of these dependent claims are of patentable significance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of these dependent claims are respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action mailed on January 7, 2004. The Applicants and the undersigned thank Examiner Basom for the consideration of these remarks. The Applicants have submitted remarks to traverse the rejections of Claims 1-14. The Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Such Action is hereby courteously solicited.

In the event the Examiner does not consider this application to be in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the instant amendment be entered for purposes of Appeal. This amendment should simplify the issues for Appeal. Nonetheless, it should be unnecessary to proceed to Appeal because the instant application should now be in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes that there are any issues that can be resolved by telephone conference, or that there are any formalities that can be corrected by an Examiner's Amendment, please contact the undersigned in the Atlanta Metropolitan Area at (404) 572-2884.

Respectfully submitted,


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